

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

La Crosse District
N5727 County Road Z
Onalaska, WI 54650

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2014

Contact: Katie Julian (608) 779-2391

Mayfly Watch Workshop

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge seeks volunteers! Interested in citizen science, biology, or learning more about mayflies? You can become a Mayfly Watcher and help staff actively contribute to science by making observations and recording data about mayfly hatches along the Mississippi River. The Refuge will be teaming up with the USA National Phenology Network (www.usanpn.org) to utilize a recording tool called "Nature's Notebook" that will help track this data and contribute to national findings. Join us for a workshop on Thursday, June 18th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center in Onalaska, Wisconsin to learn more about this opportunity.

Every year, mayflies emerge from the Mississippi River, and the result can be quite extraordinary! Large emergences can number in the millions – enough to be picked up by the weather radar. Mayflies are an important food source for fish, especially during the summer emergence, but also throughout the year when they are in their larval form.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in tracking the timing of seasonal events like these. The workshop will teach you everything you need to know about becoming a successful citizen scientist, how to use Nature's Notebook, and how to identify what you will be looking for. This workshop is intended for all age groups.

Fisheries biologist, Mark Steingreber, will present about mayflies, including a story about when mayflies emerge. Refuge Ranger, Cindy Samples, will demonstrate how to record data using a paper data sheet or using the Nature's Notebook application for smartphones.

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For more information, contact Ranger Katie Julian, 608/779 2391. The Visitor Center is located at N5727 County Road Z in Onalaska, Wisconsin. The Visitor Center summer hours include Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Additional information may be found on the Refuge webpage at:
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper_mississippi_river/

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is the most visited refuge in the United States. The refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River from Wabasha, Minn. to Rock Island, Ill., protecting and preserving habitat for migratory birds, fish, and a variety of other wildlife. This 240,000 acre refuge was established in 1924.

In addition to being the most visited refuge in the country, the "Upper Miss" Refuge has the added complexity of a major navigation system, including 11 locks and dams, within its boundary. It is also a world-class fish and wildlife area which harbors 306 species of birds; 119 species of fish; more than 300 active bald eagle nests; thousands of heron and egret nests; spectacular concentrations of canvasback ducks, tundra swans, and white pelicans; and several threatened or endangered species.